

Among the officers of the Hudson Bay Company, I must not forget to mention Dr. Barclay, whose kind attentions in procuring specimens for the Expedition, entitle him to our gratitude.

Sir George Simpson stayed only a few days. He took his departure under a salute of guns from the Cadborough, and the attendance of all the officers and dependants of the forts. Mr. Douglass went with him; and in his suite was also Mr. Von Freeman, a Russian gentleman, with whom I was much pleased. He was going to Sitka, and I believe was one of the officers of the Russian Company.

The number of posts occupied by the Hudson Bay Company in this territory is twenty-five: these are located at the best points for trade, and so as to secure the resort of the Indians, without interfering with their usual habits. Places are also occupied in the vicinity of their abodes during the most favourable part of the year, for obtaining the proceeds of their hunting. This is regulated with much skill; and the portion of the country once under their care is never suffered to become exhausted of furs; for, whenever they discover a decrease, the ground is abandoned for several years, until the animals have time to increase again.

A charge has been made against the Company, that they were desirous of exterminating the beaver south of the Columbia, and would continue to hunt them until every fur-bearing animal was exhausted. This, from the information I received, I believe to be erroneous; the story has probably proceeded from feelings of rivalry on the part of those who spread the report.

Another charge made against them, of exciting attacks on the free trappers, who are generally from our borders, is to be received with many allowances. It has been made in many cases from interested motives; and I am satisfied that nothing of this kind could emanate from Vancouver, or from any of the officers.

The whole conduct of Dr. M'Laughlin is totally at variance with such a course: every facility has been at all times extended to newcomers and settlers; it is sufficient that they are of good character, and the use of cattle, horses, farming utensils, and supplies, is invariably extended to facilitate their operations, until such time as they are able to provide for themselves.

During our stay at Vancouver, I had the pleasure of seeing many members of the Willamette Mission; but they were unable to give me much information. They invariably spoke of Dr. M'Laughlin in the highest terms: they were averse to his absolute rule over the whole territory, and, although it was considered by them as despotic, they could not adduce any instance of the wrong application of his